

Honorable Members of the FCC:

A lot more may be riding on your decision regarding a removal of ownership regulations on the broadcast industry than even those of you closest to the issue realize.

As a citizen who fought in the Korean War, one who spent some 20 years in the broadcast news business, retiring as news director of a Time-Life station in the 70's, I urge you to carefully consider before allowing additional multiple ownership of media outlets.

You know...probably better than I at this juncture...how community minded the media is these days and how essentially the same message goes out from all outlets owned by the same company or individual. But Americans are not stupid. They sense when they're being spoonfed a particular point of view, where information is exaggerated beyond reason, etc. And their recognition of such accounts for the low esteem in which the news media is now held. In my opinion, it would be a fearful step to allow still further deterioration of a diversity of reportage and opinion which has made this country of ours great.

Former President Dwight Eisenhower, in stepping back into civilian life, warned the nation

of the dangers of a military-industrial complex taking over the country. I am no conspiracy theorist, but we have, in my opinion, never been closer to such an eventuality than we are today, due largely to 9/11 and the desperate need to protect our citizens and national resources. If Americans are uninformed, or misinformed, then such a takeover, call it what you will, would be far easier than in a nation of individuals who had access to multiple sources of information and lived their lives alert and on guard against all dangers.

A government, whatever the political party...makes mistakes. Multiple ownership of the media allows any government in power to more easily influence and/or dictate what will be reported...and how. Unreported, with no criticism forthcoming or course corrections demanded, such mistakes or errors in judgment could snowball into utter disaster for our nation.

If we really are serious about maintaining a democracy in this country, (I know, it's a republic) it is a time to stand and be counted. I ask that each of you do so when you vote

on this crucial matter. Your thoughtful and deliberate consideration will be deeply appreciated. Thanks for listening.

Respectfully,

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